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ABSTRACT

The 145 high school principals and 317 student newspaper advisers who answered questionnaires in this 1974 survey provided information about the following topics: adult responsibility for student publications, advisers' qualifications, financial support arrangements, space and facilities available, general support of students' First Amendment rights, principals' and advisers' attitudes toward student publications and teenagers in general, journalism instruction, school board control of publications, school news and news coverage, editorial content, sensitivity of principals to criticism, newspaper evaluation, ideals and values, and the exercise of freedom of the press in student newspapers. Responses indicated a generally restrictive attitude among principals and advisers toward freedom of the school press in those schools for which data were available. (KS)

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PRINCIPALS' ATTITUDES TOWARD STUDENT JOURNALISM AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

A Quill and Scroll Study, January, 1976

By Laurence R. Campbell, Director of Quill and Scroll Studies

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
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Friends of student journalism have a rendezvous with realities--grim, stark, and ugly. From the ramparts where we watch we see the bombs bursting in air. We see the rockets red glare. And we ask this question: Is the First Amendment still there? Is it still there for student journalists during the Bicentennial Celebration?

This is an appropriate preface for this report on principals' attitudes toward student journalism and freedom of the press. Essentially the report compares the attitudes of 145 principals and 317 newspaper advisers--as reported in questionnaires--all from schools which entered 1974 critical and evaluation services.

If we are to put these findings in perspective, we should cite these statements as rich in relevance:

Justice William O. Douglas has said: "It is our attitude toward free thought and free expression that will determine our fate." "Acceptance by government of a dissident press is a measure of maturity."

William Ernest Hocking, the philosopher, has said: "Where men cannot freely convey their thoughts to one another, no other liberty is secure."

George Bernard Shaw has said: "The first condition of progress is the removal of censorship."

Thomas Paine in "The Crisis No. 1" said: "These are times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country."

Arthur Hadley, once president of Yale, said: "Those opinions which a man is prepared to maintain at another's cost, but not at his own, count for little..."

This inquiry asks the question: Who is responsible for the quality of high school newspapers? Do teenagers have a monopoly on this responsibility? Or do principals and advisers have a vital share of this responsibility?

The 1971 edition of A Principal's Guide to High School Journalism has a forthright answer: "There are just two basic requirements for a quality program of student journalism. They are: A principal who cares: a teacher who is qualified."

Five Questions

The responsibility of the principal is concisely outlined in the 1975 edition of the Quill and Scroll Newspaper and Newsmagazine Evaluation Scorebook and Judges' Review. It says:

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If you seek quality in student newsmedia, you will:

1. Employ an adviser with a minor or major in journalism-mass media.
2. Offer both basic and advanced one-year courses in journalism-mass media.
3. Provide financial support needed to publish newsmedia every two weeks or oftener.
4. Provide facilities described in Quill and Scroll's Space and Equipment Guidelines for Student Publications.
5. Support freedom of the press for student journalists.

This statement concerns no vision of student journalism in a New Eden, Utopia, or Shangrila. It concerns the minimum essentials in American secondary schools here and now. These minimum essentials we cannot afford to dilute or modify.

The full report includes tables in which responses from yearbook, magazine, and junior high publication advisers are presented. Some of the responses apply to all student publications, but emphasis in this report primarily is on student newsmedia.

Several preliminary remarks may be appropriate:

1. It is not necessary to define the adults involved--principals representing management; teachers representing instruction.
2. It is not necessary to define attitudes.
3. It is possible that in general those who responded to the questionnaires may be more favorably disposed toward student journalism than those who did not.

Adult Responsibility

If the adults with the power accept their responsibility, we properly may ask two more questions about the school press so far as teenagers are concerned: Is it free? Is it responsible? If student journalists enjoy their First Amendment rights, they will be responsible--not subservient and submissive--but responsible.

Advisers' Qualifications

First, do principals employ an adviser with a minor or major in journalism-mass media? To be sure, 92 per cent of the principals agree with the statement that "students should be provided with a professionally trained adviser to teach, advise, and counsel them."

Ninety per cent of the principals and 72 per cent of the newspaper advisers agree that "the adviser is a full-time teacher assigned to provide specific instruction, supervision, and guidance for student journalist." The adviser is a full-time academic employee, but seldom devotes full-time to student journalism.

Only 52 per cent of the principals report that they "employ teachers and provides instruction which make it unnecessary to impose censorship of student media." Thus, more than one-half give their advisers and the programs for which the advisers are

responsible a vote of no confidence.

Numerous studies of qualifications justify asking these questions:

1. Is there a state in which 25 per cent of newspaper, magazine, and yearbook advisers have taken 18 or more semester hours in journalism-mass media?
2. Is there a state in which fewer than 25 per cent of the publication advisers never have taken a college journalism course?
3. Is there a state in which more than 50 per cent of the publication advisers have a minor or major in journalism?
4. Is there a state in which the state department of education or regional accrediting agency has made substantial efforts to improve the situation?
5. What specifically are principals and publication advisers doing in their respective states to express their interest in quality student journalism and to improve standards rapidly?

TABLE 1: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with this statement:
"students should be provided with a professionally trained adviser to teach, advise, and counsel them."

Principals (145)	0.92
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.67
Magazine advisers (46)	0.63
Junior high advisers (46)	0.83

TABLE 2: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with this statement:
"the adviser is a full-time teacher assigned to provide the specific instruction, supervision, and guidance for student journalists."

Principals (145)	0.92
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.72
Magazine advisers (46)	0.78
Junior high advisers (46)	0.89

TABLE 3: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with this statement:
"we employ teachers and provide instruction which make it unnecessary to impose adult censorship of student media."

Principals (145)	0.52
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.38
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.42
Magazine advisers (46)	0.46
Junior high advisers (46)	0.33

Journalism Instructions

Second, do principals offer both basic and advanced one-year courses in journalism-mass media? Perhaps we should rejoice that 90 percent offer a first-year or basic journalism course; 65 per cent, a second year advanced journalism course; 60 per cent, a yearbook course; 48 per cent, a consumer-oriented mass media course; some offer a third-year course.

1. We cannot overlook the percentages that do not offer these courses.
2. These courses are likely to be effective only when the teachers are qualified, not merely certified in a high school subject area, but also have eighteen or more semester hours in journalism-mass media.

Issues here were examined at length in the 1972 Quill and Scroll Study, Evaluative Criteria for High School Journalism Textbooks in Journalism and Mass Media.

Financial Support

Third, do principals provide the financial support needed to publish newsmedia every two weeks or oftener? Only 39 per cent of the principals reported that their schools met this minimum standard. Only 1 per cent reported that basketball team could not average one game a week because of economic conditions.

Seventy-nine per cent of the principals reported that local economic conditions justified an increase in printing production costs for student publications.

Only 17 per cent believed that these economic conditions made it inexpedient to raise the price of single copies, and only 19 per cent believed that these conditions made it inexpedient to raise the rates for local advertisers or to solicit local merchants for advertising.

Only 23 per cent of the principals limit solicitation for local advertising to publications staffs, thereby enabling any other school organization to compete for the local advertisers' dollars. Yet publication staffs do not sponsor games, plays, and concerts in competition with other student groups.

Only 27 per cent require the staff and adviser to prepare written specifications for printing and commercial photography as the basis for bids to be submitted, yet the school board and principal may get in trouble if their own operations are conducted on word-of-mouth commitments.

Only 39 per cent require the adviser to negotiate printing and commercial photography contracts to be signed jointly by the adviser and principal. Certainly the principal should not assume the authority to arrange such contracts independently.

Only 68 per cent budget funds in advance to support the newspaper or newsmagazine. Presumably they either give no support at all or allow publication staffs to flounder in uncertainty in the hope of financial crumbs.

Fifty per cent of the principals report that the school subsidy provides copies of the newspaper free to various members of the school community, but often the funds are for a so-called news medium issued every three, four, five, or six weeks, not every two weeks or oftener. In 30 per cent of the schools teachers and employees get free copies, but only 7 per cent of the schools provide free copies for low-income students and 3 per cent to ethnic minorities. Twenty-five per cent provide free copies to school board members; 35 per cent provide free copies for the library archives; and 19 per cent provide free copies to a suggested list of patrons and friends, probably including school press organizations and leaders. It is taken for granted that free copies are used to exchange with other schools.

Fiscal survival of student news media was discussed in greater depth in the October-November issue of Quill and Scroll in a report entitled: "Publication Survival During Economic Crunch."

Space and Facilities

Fourth, do principals provide facilities described in Quill and Scroll's Space and Equipment Guidelines for Student Publications? Only 71 per cent of the principals asserted the space and facilities for journalism in their school were specifically designed.

In contrast consider these percentages: biology, 91 per cent; fine arts, 87 per cent; industrial arts, 81 per cent; football, 80 per cent. It is probable that instruction centers for music and science, business education and home and family also have a higher priority. Facilities of yearbook work rated 67 per cent.

Unfortunately regional accrediting associations will find Evaluative Criteria far from satisfactory for evaluating learning centers for student journalism. The booklet recommended is endorsed by the Council of Educational Facility Planners. These inadequacies have been known for years, yet little is done to correct them.

First Amendment Support

Fifth, do principals support freedom of the press for student journalists? To answer this question, let us consider their replies to a series of statements intended to pinpoint attitudes more specifically. The principals and newspaper advisers responded to the same statements.

Attitudes Toward Publications

Consider attitudes toward student publications. Eighty-seven per cent of the principals and 89 per cent of the newspaper advisers agree with the statement that: "high school publications are vital and necessary tools of education to be utilized in teaching the students the purposes and functions of mass media in a democratic society."

Seventy-two per cent of the principals and 61 per cent of the newspaper advisers

agree with the statement that "effective internal communication in schools requires good school newspapers."

TABLE 4: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with this statement: "high school publications are vital and necessary tools of education utilized in teaching the students the purposes and functions of mass media in a democratic society."

Principals (145)	0.87
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.89
Magazine advisers (46)	0.63
Junior high advisers (46)	0.87

TABLE 5: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with this statement: "effective internal communication in schools requires good school newspaper."

Principals (145)	0.72
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.61
Magazine advisers (46)	0.70
Junior high advisers (46)	0.59

School Board Control

Only 54 per cent of the principals and 25 per cent of the newspaper advisers report that the "school board exercises jurisdiction over the school program, including the publications published and circulated by students." In fact, the persistent refusal of a majority of advisers to recognize the authority of the local board of education is puzzling even if they haven't studied state school law.

TABLE 6: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement that: "the school board exercises jurisdiction over the school program, including publications published and circulated by students."

Principals (145)	0.54
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.25
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.40
Magazine advisers (46)	0.43
Junior high advisers (46)	0.43

One principal in eight believes that "the school board has the authority to set aside the U.S. Constitution and First Amendment at its discretion for security reasons." Only one newspaper adviser in twenty recognizes this unique power.

TABLE 7: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with this statement:
"the school board has the authority to set aside the U.S. Constitution and First Amendment at its discretion for security reasons."

Principals (145)	0.12
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.05
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.07
Magazine advisers (46)	0.04
Junior high advisers (46)	0.002

Seventy-seven per cent of the principals and 36 per cent of the newspaper advisers agree that "the principal interprets and enforces school board policies and provides the general instruction, guidance, supervision, and control he deems necessary."

TABLE 8: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree that:
"the principal interprets and enforces school board policies and provides the general instruction, guidance, supervision, and control he deems necessary."

Principals (145)	0.77
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.36
Yearbook advisers (141)	0.20
Magazine advisers (46)	0.48
Junior high advisers (46)	0.59

Only 40 per cent of the principals report that "written guidelines approved by the principal and staff provide a clear understanding of the rationale, relationships, and responsibilities of student media."

TABLE 9: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who report that:
"written guidelines approved by the principal and staff provide a clear understanding of the rationale, relationships, and responsibilities of student media."

Principals (145)	0.40
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.26
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.10
Magazine advisers (46)	0.30
Junior high advisers (46)	0.22

In nature of written understandings between principals and staffs was discussed at length in the 1972 Quill and Scroll study, "Newspaper Guidelines for High School Journalists."

Censorship

What is the attitude of principals and advisers toward censorship of student publications, the enforcement of the First Amendment, and the control of student journalists?

The existence of censorship of the school press has been reported for many decades. Since the early 1940s at least one nationwide critical service consistently has opposed and exposed adult deletion of objectionable content. Certainly even before the 1960s there was mounting opposition to censorship.

When the Commission of Inquiry into High School Journalism discovered student journalism in the 1970s, it published sweeping statements on freedom of the press in high schools in Captive Voices in 1974. It asserted that (see page 47):

Censorship and systematic lack of freedom to engage in open, responsible journalism characterize high school journalism.... Censorship of journalism is a matter of school policy--stated or implied--in all areas of the country, although in isolated schools students enjoy a relatively free press.

Obviously many friends of student journalism believe that censorship of the school press is much too common--as data before the 1970s revealed. Yet it is a flagrant affront to both publication advisers and understanding administrators to spread an exaggeration of this magnitude, that is, to assert that virtually all take an authoritarian role.

As early as 1936 Quill and Scroll conducted a nationwide study of 613 publication advisers and 306 principals, but despite this precedent, the Captive Voices did not invite principals in any significant number to express their viewpoints directly.

Actually in this 1975 study 68 per cent of the principals and 59 per cent of the advisers disagreed with the statement that "censorship and lack of freedom in open and responsible journalism" characterized their respective schools.

TABLE 10: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with this statement: "censorship and lack of freedom to engage in open and responsible journalism may characterize some schools--but not ours."

Principals (145)	0.68
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.59
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.49
Magazine advisers (46)	0.57
Junior high advisers (46)	0.52

Fifty seven per cent of the principals and 49 per cent of the newspaper advisers report that "there is no censorship in our school though it is simply understood that some kinds of content will not be published in student publications."

What is "simply understood" may refer to content that is profane, obscene, vulgar, or libelous. It may include the violation of copyright. Yet it may--in the judgment

of some respondents--justify deletion of content to which the principal or advisers object. Written guidelines, of course, should be more detailed.

TABLE 11: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who report that: "there is no censorship in our school though it is simply understood that some kinds of content will not be published in student publications."

Principals (145)	0.57
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.49
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.58
Magazine advisers (46)	0.63
Junior high advisers (46)	0.57

School News

Approximately two-thirds of the participants recognize the school newspaper as a truth shop, a medium that informs by spreading or disseminating accounts of current ideas, events, and problems that interest readers.

To be specific, 66 per cent of the principals and 64 per cent of the advisers agree with the statement that "the newspaper or newsmagazine reports what those in the school community see and do, feel and think."

TABLE 12: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement: "the newspaper or newsmagazine reports what those in the school community see and do, feel and think."

Principals (145)	0.66
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.64
Magazine advisers (46)	0.63
Junior high advisers (46)	0.67

What is news in a junior or senior high school?

1. Eighty-nine per cent agree that news is acceptable if it is "accurate, fair, in good taste, and avoids libel and obscenity."
2. Eighty-three per cent agree that news is acceptable if it "concerns current ideas, events, and issues in the school and community."
3. Seventy-six per cent agree that news is acceptable if it "is true, fair to all concerned, builds good will and better friendships, and is beneficial to all concerned." (This is the Rotary test.)
4. Only seven per cent agree that it is acceptable "only if it concerns what happens in school or to those representing the school."

TABLE 13: Percentage of 145 Principals who report that these statements reflect accurately current policies in their schools with regard to any news available to student news media.

News that is accurate, fair, in good taste, and avoids libel and obscenity	0.89
News that concerns current ideas, events, and issues in the school and community	0.83
That is true, fair to all concerned, builds good will and better friendships, and is beneficial to all concerned	0.76
News released by principal to local news media	0.61
Only if it concerns what happens in school or to those representing the school	0.07

From 51 per cent to 79 per cent of the principals--despite the Rotary test--agree that fair, truthful, and responsible news coverage may reveal that:

1. The student community reflects the limitations of the adult community and, therefore, may report occasional conflicts. (79 per cent)
2. Teams, casts, and other groups--despite sound instruction and able guidance--may make embarrassing mistakes. (76 per cent)
3. Teams, casts, and other groups representing the school may disappoint or displease, offend or irritate one of the school's publics. (58 per cent)
4. Adult employees may not be invariably accurate, objective, and impartial in reporting news--as news sources. (55 per cent)
5. The cost of paying a full-time journalist to produce the desired news coverage would be several times more costly. (51 per cent)

TABLE 14: Percentage of 145 Principals who agree that fair, truthful and responsible news coverage may reveal that:

The student community reflects some of the limitations of the adult community and, therefore, may report occasional conflicts	0.79
Teams, casts, and other groups--despite sound instruction and able guidance--may make embarrassing mistakes	0.76
Teams, casts, and other groups representing the school may disappoint or displease, offend or irritate one of the school's publics	0.58
Adult employees may not be invariably accurate, objective, and impartial in reporting news as news sources	0.55
The cost of paying a full-time journalist to produce the desired news coverage would be several times more costly	0.51

News Coverage

How satisfactory is news coverage?

1. Seventy per cent or more of the principals reported satisfactory coverage of extracurricular activities, athletic programs, student council, curricular activities, and of attitudes of students toward the school.
2. From 57 per cent to 66 per cent reported satisfactory coverage of honor rolls and scholarships, specific departments, student publications, school discipline and control, and school administration.
3. From 32 per cent to 49 per cent reported satisfactory coverage of transportation and parking, uninterested students, school's academic rating, grading system, current teaching methods, library, and guidance and testing.
4. From 13 per cent to 26 per cent reported satisfactory coverage of integration and busing, students with special problems, the school's financial status, and teachers' qualifications.

TABLE 15: Percentage of 145 Principals who report satisfactory news coverage in their news publications in 1974-1975 in the areas listed.

Extracurricular activities	0.93	Guidance, testing	0.49
Athletic teams	0.90	Library	0.49
Student council	0.76	Current teaching methods	0.43
Students attitudes toward school	0.74	Grading system	0.43
Curriculum	0.73	School's academic rating	0.37
School administration	0.66	Uninterested students	0.32
School discipline, control	0.66	Transportation, parking	0.32
Student publications	0.64	Teachers' qualifications	0.26
Specific departments	0.58	School's financial status	0.21
Honor rolls, scholarship	0.57	Students with special problems	0.23
		Integration, busing	0.13

Editorial Content

The student newspaper or newsmagazine also provides a soap box or persuasion podium which may influence, advise, counsel, or educate readers, serving thereby as a mold of public opinion or architect of attitudes. More than four-fifths of the principals agree with the statement that "through the open forum of editorial pages, all students and other persons have an opportunity to express their attitudes and views." The statement appeared twice with different scores.

TABLE 16: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "through the open forum of editorial pages, all students and other persons have the opportunity to express their attitudes and views."

	First	Second
Principals (145)	0.81	0.97
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.69	0.68
Magazine advisers (46)	0.59	0.61
Junior high advisers (46)	0.80	0.72

Sensitivity to Criticism

News coverage of some topics is unnecessary, undesirable, or objectionable to no more than 25 per cent of the principals.

1. From 20 per cent to 25 per cent object to coverage of local labor and unions, faculty meetings, birth control and abortion, criticism of the faculty, criticism of athletic teams.
2. From 16 per cent to 19 per cent object to coverage of criticism of the principal, local politics, and sexism.
3. From 10 per cent to 14 per cent object to coverage of school board meetings, VD counseling, the city council, and criticism of the student council.
4. From 1 per cent to 6 per cent object to coverage of crime in or near local schools, races and ethnic minorities, community recreation programs, drugs and alcoholism, student life styles, vandalism in or near schools, parent involvement, discipline and control, student employment, and environmental issues.

Negative reaction of principals may be based on any coverage or the kind of coverage.

TABLE 17: Percentage of 145 Principals which consider listed topics as unnecessary, undesirable, or objectionable as the basis for a news story.

Local labor, unions	0.25	School board meetings	0.10
Faculty meetings	0.24	Crime in local schools	0.06
Birth control, abortion	0.24	Races, ethnic minorities	0.06
Criticism of faculty	0.21	Community recreation program	0.03
Criticism of athletic teams	0.20	Drugs, alcoholism	0.03
Criticism of principal	0.19	Student life styles	0.03
Local politics	0.17	Vandalism in or near schools	0.03
Sexism	0.16	Parent involvement	0.02
Criticism of student council	0.14	Discipline, control	0.01
City council	0.12	Student employment	0.01
VD counseling	0.10	Environmental issues	0.01

What was the judgment of the newspaper as a news medium? Only 4 per cent of both principals and newspaper advisers asserted that "in 1974-1975 students on the newspaper--or newsmagazine--staff published a news medium that was bland and innocuous, trivial

and uniform, but did not engage in bad public relations."

Eighty-three per cent of the principals and 68 per cent of the newspaper advisers asserted that "no student publication in our school has created a clear and present danger of the immediate and substantial physical disruption of our school."

No principals asserted that the content of the news medium was in "bad taste" because it was obscene, profane, vulgar, or malicious.

Fewer than 1 per cent of the principals asserted the news medium had "exposed a person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, or obloquy" or that the "staff appealed predominantly to the prurient or shameful interests of minors."

Only 3 per cent asserted that the staff "published amateur efforts in literary writing without redeeming social value."

Other Publications

Eighty-eight per cent of the principals agree that "the yearbook presents the history of the school year in words and pictures as perceived by students."

Student media may amuse, divert, entertain, or stimulate the funnybone or intellect. Three-fifths of the principals agree that "the magazine or anthology stresses creativity in writing, art, and photography."

TABLE 18: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement: "the magazine or anthology stresses creativity in writing, art, and photography."

Principals (145)	0.62
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.43
Magazine advisers (46)	0.45
Junior high advisers (46)	0.87

Newspaper Evaluation

TABLE 19: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement: "in 1974-1975 students on the newspaper (or newsmagazine) staff published a newspaper that was bland and innocuous, trivial and uniform, but did not engage in bad public relations."

Principals (145)	0.04
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.04
Magazine advisers (46)	0.15
Junior high advisers (46)	0.15

TABLE 20: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"no student publication in our school this year has created a clear and present danger of the immediate and substantial physical disruption of our school."

Principals (145)	0.83
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.68
Magazine advisers (46)	0.83
Junior high advisers (46)	0.80

The term "clear and present danger" has more than one definition, but the publication staff and adviser generally interpret it to mean that the principal or school board was displeased by the publication and the staff.

Nine of 62 newspaper advisers in the Texas, California, and western states study cited reported that the principal ordered newspaper content to be altered or expunged because of his disapproval.

Similarly 28 newspaper advisers required newspaper content to be altered or expunged because of their disapproval, according to the same study. It is assumed that such modification did not include routine use of style, editing symbols, etc.

Students on three newspaper staffs were disciplined, suspended, or expelled because of their participation, according to the same study. In 31 of the 62 reports the newspaper adviser was subjected to criticism because of newspaper content which others disliked or disapproved. Only in 10 of 62 answers did the yearbook evoke more criticism than the newspaper.

TABLE 21: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"In 1974-1975 students on the newspaper or newsmagazine staff published content in "bad taste" because it was obscene, profane, vulgar, or malicious."

Principals (145)	0.00
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.01
Magazine advisers (46)	0.00
Junior high advisers (46)	0.02

TABLE 22: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"in 1974-1975 students on the newspaper or newsmagazine staff exposed a person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, or obloquy."

Principals (145)	0.007
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.01
Magazine advisers (46)	0.00
Junior high advisers (46)	0.02

TABLE 23: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"in 1974-1975 students on the newspaper or newsmagazine staff appealed
predominantly to the prurient or shameful interests of minors."

Principals (145)	0.007
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.00
Magazine advisers (46)	0.02
Junior high advisers (46)	0.00

TABLE 24: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"in 1974-1975 students on the newspaper or newsmagazine staff published
amateur efforts in literary writing without redeeming social value."

Principals (145)	0.03
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.03
Magazine advisers (46)	0.04
Junior high advisers (46)	0.09

TABLE 25: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"in 1974-1975 students on the newspaper (or newsmagazine) staff pub-
lished a satisfactory newspaper which met the needs reasonably well in
terms of resources available."

Principals (145)	0.75
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.58
Magazine advisers (46)	0.74
Junior high advisers (46)	0.50

Attitudes Toward Teenagers

Consider the attitudes of principals and newspaper advisers toward teenagers on student publication staffs. Only 57 per cent of the principals and 34 per cent of the advisers agree with the statement that "the staff consists of student volunteers who are amateurs working part-time on student publications as service projects."

Certainly staff members are not paid professionals working full-time on commercial enterprises. Certainly the term "work" is applicable. Certainly a publication is a service project, for its primary function is to serve.

TABLE 26: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement that:
"the staff consists of student volunteers who are amateurs working part-
time on student publications as service projects."

Principals (145)	0.57
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.34
Magazine advisers (46)	0.26
Junior high advisers (46)	0.52

Eighty-three per cent of the principals and 66 per cent of the newspaper advisers agree that "student publications provide a training ground which prepares teenagers to become informed and enlightened citizens and consumers at 18."

TABLE 27: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement: "student publications provide a training ground which prepares teenagers to become informed and enlightened citizens and consumers at 18."

Principals (145)	0.83
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.66
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.68
Magazine advisers (46)	0.76
Junior high advisers (46)	0.70

Yet 83 per cent of the principals and 68 per cent of the newspaper advisers agree with the statement that "students should be offered opportunities to inform, to entertain, to investigate, to interpret, and to evaluate--all being accepted, responsible functions of the traditional democratic process."

TABLE 28: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement that: "students should be offered opportunities to inform, to entertain, to investigate, to interpret, and to evaluate--all being accepted, responsible functions of the traditional democratic process."

Principals (145)	0.83
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.68
Magazine advisers (46)	0.63
Junior high advisers (46)	0.72

What are the attitudes of principals toward the supervision and control of student publications? Eighty-three per cent of the principals, but only 54 per cent of the advisers agree with the statement that "high school students may be considered 'in loco parentis'" and that "in the absence of parents, the school may exercise mature judgment."

This statement reflects the position taken by the Maryland State Board of Education and probably other states as well as local school boards. Unfortunately the term "mature judgment" at times seems to include anything from admonition and advisement to brain-washing and denial of civil rights.

TABLE 29: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"high school students may be considered 'in loco parentis'..in the
absence of parents, the school may exercise mature judgment."

Principals (145)	0.83
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.54
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.63
Magazine advisers (46)	0.52
Junior high advisers (46)	0.65
Advisers in Texas, California, the West (62)	0.78

Sixty-one per cent of the principals and 54 per cent of the newspaper advisers agree with the statement that "student publications help close the generation gap."

TABLE 30: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"student publications help close the generation gap."

Principals (145)	0.61
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.54
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.62
Magazine advisers (46)	0.62
Junior high advisers (46)	0.63

Only 49 per cent of the principals and 61 per cent of the newspaper advisers agree with the statement that "giving students a free hand promotes responsibility and creativity."

TABLE 31: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"giving students a free hand promotes responsibility and creativity."

Principals (145)	0.49
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.61
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.56
Magazine advisers (46)	0.67
Junior high advisers (46)	0.61

Evaluation of Newspapers

Ninety-four per cent of the principals but only 70 per cent of the newspaper advisers believe that "in 1974-1975 for the most part, student journalists worked hard to produce good publications."

TABLE 32: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"in 1974-1975, for the most part, student journalists worked hard to produce good publications."

Principals (145)	0.94
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.70
Magazine advisers (46)	0.70
Junior high advisers (46)	0.78

Seventy-one per cent and 47 per cent of the newspaper advisers agree with the statement that "in 1974-1975 student volunteers in service projects in journalism achieved standards as high as those in student council, music, dramatics, and athletics."

This low opinion advisers had of their own effectiveness in instruction and guidance of student journalists may be a recognition of their own limitations or a frustration of the problems they encounter.

TABLE 33: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with the statement:
"in 1974-1975 student volunteers in service projects in journalism achieved standards as high as those in student council, music, dramatics; and athletics."

Principals (145)	0.71
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.47
Magazine advisers (46)	0.57
Junior high advisers (46)	0.34

Ideals and Values

Eighty-seven per cent of the principals but only 52 per cent of the newspaper advisers agreed that "teenagers should learn to think, to speak, to write, to act consistently with the ideals and values of our American heritage." Thus, apparently two out of five advisers do not believe in these ideals or values or doubt that they exist.

TABLE 34: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree with this statement:
"teenagers should learn to think, to speak, to write, to act consistently with the ideals and values of our American heritage."

Principals (145)	0.87
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.52
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.72
Magazine advisers (46)	0.54
Junior high advisers (46)	0.74

Sixty-eight per cent of the principals and 53 per cent of the advisers agree with the statement that "school systems preach democracy; so they should let students

practice it." True, some may not agree that school systems "preach democracy"; others may not agree that schools should let students "practice" democracy.

TABLE 35: Percentage of Principals and Advisers who agree that: "school systems preach democracy; so they should let students practice it."

Principals (145)	0.68
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.53
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.59
Magazine advisers (46)	0.63
Junior high advisers (46)	0.61

Aspects of Freedom

Eighty-one per cent of the principals but only 62 per cent of the newspaper advisers agree that "students should be afforded experiences in exercising concepts in the freedom of the press."

More principals than newspaper advisers agree that teenagers--as well as teachers and other adults--are entitled:

1. To speak, write, and communicate--or not to do so.
2. To listen or not to listen; to view or not to do so.
3. To express spoken or written views without fear of retaliation.
4. To have access to public records.
5. To read print media and view nonprint media--or not to do.

TABLE 36: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "students should be afforded experiences in exercising concepts in the freedom of the press."

Principals (145)	0.81
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.62
Magazine advisers (46)	0.63
Junior high advisers (46)	0.78

TABLE 37: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "teenagers--as well as teachers and other adults--are entitled to speak, write, and communicate--or not to do so."

Principals (145)	0.77
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.72
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.70
Magazine advisers (46)	0.74
Junior high advisers (46)	0.65

TABLE 38: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "teenagers--as well as teachers and other adults--are entitled to listen or not listen; to view or not to do so."

Principals (145)	0.73
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.68
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.70
Magazine advisers (46)	0.78
Junior high advisers (46)	0.65

TABLE 39: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "teenagers--as well as teachers and other adults--are entitled to express spoken or written views without fear of retaliation."

Principals (145)	0.72
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.71
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.75
Magazine advisers (46)	0.80
Junior high advisers (46)	0.67

TABLE 40: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "teenagers--as well as teachers and other adults--are entitled to have access to public records of information."

Principals (145)	0.84
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.77
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.81
Magazine advisers (46)	0.87
Junior high advisers (46)	0.78

TABLE 41: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "teenagers--as well as other adults--are entitled to read print media and to view nonprint media--or not to do."

Principals (145)	0.74
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.72
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.73
Magazine advisers (46)	0.87
Junior high advisers (46)	0.65

TABLE 42: Percentage of Newspaper Advisers in Texas and western states and high school librarians who agree with the rights listed below as reported in 1974.

Right	Texas and Western States (62)	Florida (94)
The right to speak	.92	.88
The right to speak anonymously	.43	.72
The right not to speak	.91	.98
The right to write	.96	1.00
The right to write anonymously	.47	---
The right not to write	.96	---
The right to listen	1.00	1.00
The right not to listen	.89	.98
The right to know	1.00	1.00
The right of access (to news sources)	1.00	.99

Exercising Freedom

Eighty-one per cent of the principals and 64 per cent of the newspaper advisers agree with the statement that "students who participate as editors and reporters should be given the opportunity to gain educational and realistic experience in the concepts of the First Amendment to the Constitution which asserts the freedom of speech and press."

TABLE 43: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "students who participate as editors and staff members should be given the opportunity to gain educational and realistic experience in the concepts of the First Amendment to the Constitution which asserts the freedom of speech and press."

Principals (145)	0.81
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.64
Magazine advisers (46)	0.63
Junior high advisers (46)	0.70

Only 41 per cent of the principals and 49 per cent of the newspaper advisers support preceding assertions by agreeing that "students should be free of external forces which seek to restrict these freedoms."

To some extent, then, both principals and newspaper advisers repudiate the idea that "students should be afforded experiences in exercising concepts in the freedom of the press." Several interpretations may be suggested:

1. The professional persons--principals and advisers--actually do not believe what they said they believed.

2. Or they do not really believe that teenagers are capable of understanding the principles.
3. Or they--as principals--do not really believe they are capable of providing the general supervision, guidance, and instruction needed.
4. Or they--as advisers--do not believe that they are capable of teaching teenagers how to understand freedom of the press.
5. Or principals and advisers fear internal pressures--those of teachers in general--or external pressures from the board of education, parents, and others who say they believe in education for citizenship in democracy, but only if teenagers respond favorably to the secondary education program locally devised.

Perhaps there are other excuses and alibies, other explanations and equivocations, but just as athletic teams, music groups, drama groups, and curricular experiences require application of theory to practice, the basic principles of freedom of the press must be exercised in the midst of realities.

TABLE 44: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree that "students should be free of external forces which seek to restrict these freedoms."

Principals (145)	0.41
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.49
Magazine advisers (46)	0.37
Junior high advisers (46)	0.59

Court Decisions

Slightly more than half of the principals and newspaper advisers agree with key statements from court decisions that relate to teenagers and freedom of the press. To put it another way, frequently three or four out of ten principals and advisers disagree with the judges giving the decision, in the Tinker case, for example.

TABLE 45: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with this statement: "the vigilant protection of constitutional freedom is nowhere more vital than in the community of American schools." (Keyishian v. Board of Regents, 385 U.S. 589, 594 (1967).)

Principals (145)	0.58
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.58
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.60
Magazine advisers (46)	0.83
Junior high advisers (46)	0.54

TABLE 46: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with this statement: "the nation's future depends upon leaders trained through wide exposure to that robust exchange of ideas which discover truth out of a multitude of tongues, rather than any kind of authoritative selection." (Keyishian v. Board of Regents, 385 U.S. 589, 594 (1967).)

Principals (145)	0.73
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.74
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.65
Magazine advisers (46)	0.78
Junior high advisers (46)	0.70

TABLE 47: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with this statement: "In our system, state-operated schools may not be enclaves of totalitarianism." (Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community District, 390 U.S. 503 (1969).)

Principals (145)	0.62
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.52
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.48
Magazine advisers (46)	0.63
Junior high advisers (46)	0.41

TABLE 48: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "students may not be confined to the expressions of those sentiments which are officially approved." (Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, 393 U.S. 503; 89 Ct. 733 (1969).)

Principals (145)	0.67
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.71
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.58
Magazine advisers (46)	0.70
Junior high advisers (46)	0.54

TABLE 49: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "students in as well as out of school are persons under the Constitution . . . not closed-circuit recipients of only that which the state chooses to communicate." (Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, 393 U.S. 503; 89 S. Ct. 733 (1969).)

Principals (145)	0.68
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.70
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.56
Magazine advisers (46)	0.74
Junior high advisers (46)	0.67

TABLE 50: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "the state is not necessarily the unrestrained master of what it creates or fosters." (Antonelli v. Hammond, 308 F. Supp. 1329 (D: Mass, 1970).)

Principals (145)	0.57
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.55
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.58
Magazine advisers (46)	0.57
Junior high advisers (46)	0.54

TABLE 51: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "in the absence of a specific showing of constitutionally valid reasons to regulate their speech, students are entitled to freedom of expression of their views." (Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community District, 393 U.S. 503 (1969).)

Principals (145)	0.60
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.65
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.54
Magazine advisers (46)	0.67
Junior high advisers (46)	0.57

TABLE 52: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement that: "it would be incongruous and dangerous ... to hold that students who wish to express their views on matters intimately related to them, through traditionally non-disruptive modes of communication, may be precluded from doing so." (299 F Supp. 103 (S. D. N. Y. 1969).)

Principals (145)	0.58
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.61
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.46
Magazine advisers (46)	0.63
Junior high advisers (46)	0.57

TABLE 53: Percentage of Principals and Newspaper Advisers who agree with the statement: "the risk taken if a few students abuse their First Amendment rights of free speech and free press is outweighed by the far greater risk run by suppressing free speech and press among the young. The remedy for today's alienation and disorder is not less but more free expression of ideas." (Eisner v. Stamford, Board of Education, 314 Supp. 832 (1970); 440 F 2d. 803 (1971).)

Principals (145)	0.46
Newspaper advisers (317)	0.51
Yearbook advisers (142)	0.51
Magazine advisers (46)	0.54
Junior high advisers (46)	0.50

Conclusions

This report is presented as a modest inquiry, not as a great enterprise in communication research. The data reported do not justify sweeping generalizations. They may be the basis for regional inquiries in which these and other aspects may be examined more effectively.

1. Many schools--perhaps too few schools--do not meet the five minimum essentials outlined at the outset.
2. The differences in the attitudes of principals and newspaper advisers are not so great as might have been predicted. Certainly they are not on a collision course.
3. Whatever may be the interpretation of these data, the situation in schools in which principals and advisers do not respond probably is less encouraging--if the data herein reported are encouraging.
4. It is probable that the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution would not be adopted today if it were left up to representatives of the participating principals and advisers, many of whom reflect the attitudes of summer soldiers and patriots.

Perhaps the Bicentennial Celebration will amount to more than waving Old Glory and putting wreaths on the monuments of founding fathers. Perhaps it will stimulate a resurgence in our dedication to democratic ideals. When we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States, we will mean "liberty and justice for all"--civil liberty with freedom of the press for teenagers as well as adults.

As Justice Douglas said, "It is our attitude toward free thought and free expression that will determine our fate"--the fate of a free country in which freedom of the schools, freedom of the press, and freedom for all are inseparable.

It is popular today to preach the retreat to the restraints and restrictions of the three basics--the three R's. Such an over-simplification--though it may sound safe and sane--is doomed to failure. Our high schools should liberate teenagers for personal fulfillment and service to others. What we need is not a return to the old three R's. But the new three R's--Relevance, Reconciliation, and Responsibility--may be the basis of a new birth of freedom for both adults and teenagers.